Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of establishing a BGP mesh in a network, comprising:

receiving ~~flooding~~ BGP peering information flooded from a network device ~~to at least one other network device~~, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters;

~~the at least one other network device receiving the BGP peering information; and~~

~~analyzing~~ automatically discovering ~~the BGP peering information to identify~~ at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

automatically establishing a BGP peering session with said at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the network device is a router or route reflector.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a BGP identifier.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a flooding protocol.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6, wherein the flooding protocol is OSPF or ISIS.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a flooding scope.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an autosynchronous system (AS) number or ~~confedration~~ confederation sub-AS number.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a force new peering flag and a new peering address.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an originator flag.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 11, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an address family identifier.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a route reflector flag.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an address family identifier.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13, wherein the BGP peering information comprises a cluster identifier.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP peering information comprises an old BGP identifier.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the BGP mesh is an iBGP mesh.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP mesh in a network, comprising:

a first network device flooding BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters; and

at least one other network device that receives the BGP peering information, ~~analyze~~ automatically discovers ~~the BGP peering information to identify~~ at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information, and ~~perform~~ automatically establishes a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program ~~product~~ that establishes a BGP mesh in a network, the computer program comprising:

computer code that configures a processor to receive ~~flood~~ BGP peering information flooded from a network device ~~to at least one other network device~~, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters;

~~computer code that configures a processor to receive the BGP peering information at the at least one other network device;~~

computer code that configures a processor to ~~analyze the BGP peering information to identify~~ automatically discover at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

computer code that automatically establishes ~~performs~~ a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh~~; and~~

~~a computer readable medium that stores the computer codes~~.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP mesh in a network, comprising:

~~a~~ means for receiving ~~flooding~~ BGP peering information flooded from a network device ~~to at least one other network device~~, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters;

~~a means for receiving the BGP peering information at the at least one other network device;~~

~~a~~ means for ~~analyzing the BGP peering information to identify~~ automatically discovering at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

a means for ~~performing~~ automatically establishing a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method of establishing a BGP mesh in a network, comprising:

receiving BGP peering information from a network device;

analyzing the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor; ~~and~~

performing a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh; and flooding the received BGP peering information at least one other network device.

Claim 22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP mesh in a network, comprising:

a first network device that receives BGP peering information, analyzes the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor, performs a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh, and floods the BGP peering information; and

~~as~~ a second network device that receives the BGP peering information from the first network device.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program ~~product~~ that establishes a BGP mesh in a network, the computer program comprising:

computer code that receives BGP peering information;

computer code that analyzes the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor;

computer code that performs a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh; and

computer code that floods the BGP peering information

~~; and~~

~~a computer readable medium that stores the computer codes~~.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A network system that establishes a BGP mesh in a network, comprising:

~~a~~ means for receiving BGP peering information;

~~a~~ means for analyzing the BGP peering information to identify at least one neighbor;

~~a~~ means for performing a BGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish a BGP mesh; and

~~a~~ means for flooding the received BGP peering information.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method of establishing an iBGP mesh in a network, comprising:

receiving ~~flooding~~ iBGP peering information flooded from a network device ~~to at least one other network device~~, the BGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters;

~~the at least one other network device receiving the iBGP peering information;~~

~~analyzing~~ automatically discovering ~~the iBGP peering information to identify~~ at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

automatically establishing ~~performing~~ an iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh.

Claim 27 (currently amended): A network system that establishes an iBGP mesh in a network, comprising:

a first network device flooding iBGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters; and

at least one other network device that receives the iBGP peering information, ~~analyze the iBGP peering information to identify~~ automatically discovers at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information, and ~~perform~~ automatically establishes an iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium encoded with a computer program ~~product~~ that establishes an iBGP mesh in a network, the computer program comprising:

~~computer code that configures a processor to flood iBGP peering information from a network device to at least one other network device;~~

computer code that configures a processor to receive ~~the~~ iBGP peering information flooded from a network device, the iBGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters ~~at the at least one other network device~~;

computer code that configures a processor to automatically discover ~~analyze the iBGP peering information to identify~~ at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

computer code that automatically establishes ~~performs~~ an iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh~~; and~~

~~a computer readable medium that stores the computer codes~~.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A network system that establishes an iBGP mesh in a network, comprising:

~~a means for flooding iBGP peering information from a network device to at least one other network device;~~

~~a~~ means for receiving ~~the~~ iBGP peering information flooded from ~~at the at least one other~~ a network device, the iBGP peering information comprising static configuration parameters;

~~a~~ means for automatically discovering ~~analyzing the iBGP peering information to identify~~ at least one neighbor utilizing said received BGP peering information; and

~~a~~ means for automatically establishing ~~performing~~ an iBGP session with the at least one neighbor to establish an iBGP mesh.